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ER-0-5072

20 June 1949

To: The Executive

From: Chief, ICAPS

Subject: Interdepartmental Coordination

1. With reference to the forthcoming monthly meetings of the Operational Coordination Group, ICAPS would like to bring the following matter to the attention of all Offices engaged in plans or projects with interdepartmental working committees.

2. Often the plans and projects of different working committees within CIA develop into interdepartmental agreements or directives. As shown on the organization chart giving the functions of the different components of CIA, ICAPS is charged with coordination and planning of an interdepartmental nature.

3. The IAC has established procedures for giving consideration to, and voting on, interdepartmental agreements, policies, and procedures, which we are obliged to follow. Among the other functions of ICAPS are the handling of interdepartmental circulation of proposals and voting slips with the IAC Agencies after discussion in the Standing Committee.

4. It is all right for individuals and professionals within CIA and on ad hoc interdepartmental committees to work on a project, especially in its formulative stages, but the CIA chairman, or CIA member, should, in the early stages, advise ICAPS of the subject matter under consideration, and again, as the committee's draft becomes finalized, this draft should be turned over to ICAPS before seeking the final interdepartmental votes.

5. As you know, rarely can we maintain a 100% CIA stand, and rarely do the chiefs go along 100% with the result of their working committees or even their Standing Committee. We do, however, try to get interdepartmental agreement at the top, even when we have only a firm CIA position to start with. If CIA's position is the result of an interdepartmental working group's agreement, we, of course, have a better chance of getting topside concurrence in the Departments.

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